

C1
Cont

an insulating coating covering at least a portion of the outer edges of the electrodes, wherein the insulating coating does not cover the upper and lower surfaces.

10. An electroactive bender actuator having upper and lower surfaces, comprising:

a pair of spaced electrode layers having a plurality of outer edge surfaces, at least one of the outer edge surfaces of both of the electrode layers generally aligned to lie in a common plane;

CD

an electroactive layer disposed at least in part between and coupled with said electrode layers and having a plurality of outer edge surfaces at least one of which is also generally aligned to lie in the common plane; and

an insulating coating covering the outer edge surfaces of said electroactive and electrode layers which lie in the common plane, wherein the insulating coating does not cover the upper and lower surfaces.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request continued prosecution of this application. Claims 1-6, 9-10, and 12-17 are pending in the present application, and independent claims 1 and 10 are amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of this application. Applicants believe this amendment and accompanying remarks overcomes the rejection of claims 1-6, 9-10, and 12-17 and respectfully request examination and reconsideration of these claims in light of these remarks.

In the last (final) Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9-10, and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haertling, Schwartz, or Samsel in view of Lange or Harnden.

Haertling discloses a prestressed piezoelectric actuator having a ceramic layer, a top electrode disposed across the top surface of the ceramic layer, and a bottom electrode disposed around the edge of the bottom surface of the ceramic layer. As seen in Fig. 11, the